



**TESTIMONY
BOB MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

RE: OPPOSE – SB-815. AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON TAX CREDITS

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) opposes provisions in SB-815, An Act Concerning a Moratorium on Tax Credits, which would eliminate the apprenticeship training tax credit.

The apprenticeship training tax credit provides employers with a modest incentive to employ and train apprentices in the skilled trades. Apprenticeship has long been recognized as the best method for preparing workers for employment in the skilled trades. Unfortunately, it can cost up to \$50,000 a year in salary, equipment, exam and classroom fees, registration fees and the time and expertise of the training supervisor to properly train an apprentice, and most plumbing apprenticeships run for four to five years. The high cost of training apprentices discourages many small and midsize businesses from accepting the financial and time commitment of training an apprentice, particularly given these difficult economic times.

PHCC is concerned that the elimination of this incentive will stifle job growth in our industry – jobs that provide excellent wage and benefit packages for individuals. In order to create a steady supply of skilled tradespersons to meet the demand for workers in the construction trades and benefit our overall economy, Connecticut must continue to encourage and support apprenticeship training.

We therefore urge lawmakers to reject the provisions in the bill which eliminate the apprenticeship training tax credit.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the State of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.